

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 992

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Susan Russ upon her induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens who, through unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Susan Russ, who has devoted nearly forty years to the education and instruction of high school students and athletes; on March 15, 2008, Mrs. Russ will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, a most befitting recognition of her outstanding service to Tennessee schools; and

WHEREAS, Susan Russ began her extensive career in education in 1968 at Memphis State University, where she started the first women's program for both track and field and cross country; the initial implementation of these programs proved to be difficult as there were not any organized scholastic sports for girls at that time; and

WHEREAS, not to be deterred, Susan Russ eventually coached the Memphis State track and field team to a second place finish in the Tennessee State Collegiate Track and Field Championships; by the early 1970s, she had built the track program to be competitive at the national level and had some individuals qualify for cross country nationals; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Susan Russ began a successful career at Harpeth Hall High School that would span nearly thirty years; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious tenure at Harpeth Hall High School as Head Track and Cross Country Coach, she led the track and field team to twelve TSSAA State championships (the most for any coach in the State of Tennessee), nine TSSAA State runner-up titles, nineteen regional championships, and two track team relays State championships; in addition, she

guided her cross country teams to six TSSAA State championships and twenty-one region championships; and

WHEREAS, exhibiting great leadership skills, Coach Russ served as Harpeth Hall's Athletic Director for nineteen outstanding years; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, Coach Russ has received numerous coaching honors, including induction into the Memphis State University Sports Hall of Fame in 1987, the TSSAA Distinguished Service Recognition Award in 1990, and selection as the NFICA Tennessee Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the significance of Susan Russ's impact cannot be adequately measured by championships alone; her positive impact on the lives of her students, athletes, fellow teachers, and administrators resounds in the community; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished career, Susan Russ has enjoyed the love and support of her husband, H. Kent Russ, and her three children, Chris Russ, Marti Russ Jeffords, and Andy Russ; and

WHEREAS, for the above accomplishments and because of her impeccable moral standards and impressive work ethic, Coach Susan Russ has been selected for induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Susan Russ is a woman of true character and commitment, and she exemplifies the type of selfless community servant and civic leader whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts to mentor the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards, whether in the athletic arena or in the actions of daily life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join the family and friends of Susan Russ in congratulating her upon her induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, honor and commend Mrs. Russ for her substantial legacy as a coach in the sports community of Tennessee, and offer our deep gratitude for the dedication that she has shown our State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.